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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ELY.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1938

BY

J. W. C. FAIRWEATHER, M.B., Ch.B.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C. R.
MIN. OF HEALTH
27 AUG 1939
67

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T H E

R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L O F E L Y.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

I beg leave to submit for the approval of the Chairman and Members of the District Council my report for the year 1938. The form of this report is very similar to that of my predecessor and differs from it mainly in matters of detail. The Sanitary Inspector's Record of Work is incorporated in the report.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

General Statistics.

Area (acres)	66,082
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate for mid 1938)	13,010
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938 according to Rate Books)	2,962
Rateable Value	£30,937
Sum represented by a penny rate	£135

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	175	95	80	Birth- ate 14.22.
	(Illegitimate	10	6	4	
Still Births	(Legitimate)	5	1	4	Rate per 1000 Total births 26.32
Deaths		163	82	81	Crude death-rate 12.53 Corrected death-rate 10.39

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths :	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births :
Puerperal Sepsis	0	Nil
Other Causes	1	5.2
Total	1	5.2

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1000 live births ...	73.67
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	75.68
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	33
do Measles (all ages)	Nil
do Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
do Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The principal industries in the area are general agriculture and fruit growing. Both these industries have been in a depressed state for several years with the result that they have been unable to pay a high rate of wages.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the District Council.

These consist of the Medical Officer of Health who is a part-time official and the Sanitary Inspector who is wholly employed by the Council. The Medical Officer of Health has the degree of M.B., Ch.B., and the Sanitary Inspector has the Diploma of the Sanitary Institute. At the close of the year the Council were seeking consent for the appointment of an additional Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities.

The bacteriological examination of specimens is done by Dr. Henwood Harvey, 37 Green Street, Cambridge.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA (contd).

Laboratory Facilities (contd).

This includes examination of sputum from suspected cases of Tuberculosis, examination of throat and nose swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria and examination of the blood from suspected cases of the Typhoid group. These specimens are examined and reported on free of charge to the practitioners. In cases of Diphtheria, Antitoxin is issued gratis.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Ambulance facilities are adequate. There is a Motor Ambulance in connexion with the Joint Hospital at Ely, which is used for the conveyance of all infectious cases. Non-infectious cases and accidents are conveyed by a Motor Ambulance which is stationed in the City of Ely. This Ambulance was in the first instance made available for use in the District by the generosity of the late Mr. F.L.Harlock.

Nursing in the Home.

There is no provision for nursing infectious diseases in the home. All infectious cases are encouraged to be treated in Hospital.

District Nursing Associations.

The Ely Rural District is served by the following District Nursing Associations, which carry out on behalf of the County Council duties under the Midwives Act, 1936. The names and addresses of the Hon. Secretaries are given below and also the names and addresses and telephone numbers of the nurses employed :

(See following page)

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA (contd).

District Nursing Associations (contd).

	Hon. Secretaries :	Nurses :
Ely (for the village of Witchford)	Miss H.W.Willink, Palace Green Cottage, Ely.	Nurse Lawford, 18 Egremont St. Ely. Tel: Ely 124.
Sutton	Mrs. Haylock, High Street, Sutton.	Nurse Wild, Pound Lane, Sutton. Tel: Sutton 214.
Haddenham and Wilburton	Mrs. E.R.Robinson, South Place, Haddenham.	Nurse Lowe, Linden Farm, Haddenham. Tel: Haddenham 16.
Stretham	Mrs. E.E.Stevens, Cambridge Road, Stretham.	Nurse H.Cook, 11 Ely Road, Stretham. Tel: Stretham 35
Downham	Mrs. E.M.Young, The Rectory, Downham.	Nurse Cordery, School Lane, Downham. Tel: Pymoor 52.
Littleport	Miss M.Martin, Highfield House, Littleport.	Nurse West, 33 Hempfield Place, Littleport. Tel: Littleport 96.
Prickwillow (for the Redmere District only)	Miss Willson, Lambsware Hill, Prickwillow.	Nurse Douglas, 11 Council Houses, Lark Bank, Prickwillow. Tel: Prickwillow 204.

The boundaries of these Associations are so arranged that no part of the area is unprovided for so far as midwifery or maternity services are concerned.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA (contd).

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Tuberculosis (At Ely each Thursday, 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.). The Tuberculosis Officer of the Isle of Ely County Council attends at this Clinic every Thursday and sees all cases referred to him by the Practitioners in the Area. This Clinic is mainly for diagnosis and supervision of cases which have previously been notified. The Tuberculosis Officer arranges to have an X-ray examination of the chest in suspected cases and examinations of the sputum are done frequently. I would urge all Practitioners to make full use of this Clinic in order to facilitate early diagnosis of the disease.

Welfare Centres.-	At Ely each Wednesday, 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m. At Littleport each Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
School Clinic.-	At Ely each Monday, 9.0 a.m.
Venereal Diseases Clinic.-	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge : Tuesday, 3.0 p.m. each week. Thursday, 7.0 p.m. do
Ante-Natal Clinic.-	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge : Friday, 12.0 noon, weekly. Any abnormal case is seen by the Obstetric Surgeon of Addenbrooke's Hospital if referred to him by a Practitioner.

Orthopaedic Clinic.
The Cambs and Isle of Ely Division of the British Red Cross Society maintain an Orthopaedic Clinic in Ely; the sessions are held at the Central Hall, Ely, on Thursdays. Dr.Roderick the Orthopaedic Surgeon from Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge attends this Clinic on the 2nd Thursday, 11.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. and on the 4th Thursday, 1.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m., of each month.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA (contd).

Hospitals

(1) Tuberculosis.
The County Council has 4 reserved beds (3 male and 1 female) in the Ipswich Sanatorium, and additional beds are engaged as and when required at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate; Papworth Colony, Cambridge; Eversfield Chest Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea, at the Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt; Kelling Sanatorium, Holt; Creaton Sanatorium, Northampton and Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton.

(2) Maternity.
Difficult maternity cases are admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

(3) Fever.
The Isolation Hospital for the Area is situate at Ely, where provision is made for cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Scarlet Fever; the hospital is run jointly with Ely Urban and Chatteris Urban District Councils. There are now 36 beds available.

(4) Smallpox.
There are no beds for the isolation of smallpox.

(5) General Hospitals.
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge admits practically all the medical and surgical cases from the area. The Honorary Physicians and Surgeons of this Hospital see cases referred to them by the Practitioners daily at 11 o'clock at the Out-patients department.

Peterborough Infimary, Peterborough.

Wisbech Hospital, Wisbech.

None of these Hospitals receive financial aid from the Council.

No special institution exists in the area for unmarried mothers, illegitimate and homeless children. There is a Diocesan Maternity Home at Cambridge which can be made use of.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA (contd).

Legislation in Force.

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, was adopted on 9th October, 1919, and byelaws relating to Tents and Vans were brought into force on 15th January, 1920.

Sections 39, 40, 41 and 42 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were adopted to apply to the Parish of Littleport, and came into operation on 5th November, 1928.

The Public Health Act, 1925, Part III.

Sanitary provisions, with the exception of Sections 39 and 40 and Part IV, relating to verminous persons, were adopted and came into operation on 9th January, 1929.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

There is little that may usefully be added to previous Annual Reports which indicate the entire Rural District enjoys the advantages of an abundant supply of wholesome water.

At the close of the year appropriate action was being taken to prevent any contamination of the boreholes. In this connexion purchase of dwellings and land around the Pumping Station is contemplated in order that the Council might effectively control building development and at the same time control or remove any sources likely to give rise to pollution. As a further additional precaution some form of protective treatment of the water is envisaged. In company with the Isle of Ely County Medical Officer, Dr. T.C.Lonie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., I attended at the Offices of the Ministry of Health on 8th June, 1938, when the findings of a preliminary survey of the area around the Waterworks were considered with Officers of the Department. As a result of advice received at that interview, the Council thought fit to proceed on the lines previously indicated.

Quarterly analyses of samples taken from each of the boreholes have proved quite satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (contd)

Drainage and Sewerage.

Drainage of most of the villages in the area is effected by drains which receive house drainage and also the surface water from adjoining highways. The larger villages have sewers, similarly used in the main streets. In all villages the effluent passes untreated into fen ditches. These ditches are regularly cleansed.

Rivers and Watercourses.

These are polluted with water from the fen drains. No action has been necessary during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

The pail system is general in all villages, but some pit privies remain. Water carriage is adopted in the Town area of Littleport, and in other villages where sewers are available.

Refuse Disposal.

The Council undertake the removal weekly of household refuse in the special lighting area of Littleport. Refuse is deposited on waste land. The cleansing of cesspools, ashpits, privies and earth closets is done by the occupiers in all Parishes.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (contd).

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Houses inspected for defects and remedied by informal action	1
Accumulations of filth removed	8
Yards of dwellings cleansed	5
Privy nuisances, defects, etc., remedied	5
Samples of water taken to Public Analyst	
(a) from Public Supply	8
(b) from Privates Supplies	0
Houses reported without proper water supply connected to mains following notices	14
Infectious disease - houses visted ...	5
Houses, premises, etc., disinfected ...	6
Street gullies trapped	3
Foul ditches cleansed	20
Ponds closed	0
Public wells closed	0
Slaughterhouses inspected	21
New shaughterhouses licenced	0
Bakehouses inspected	20
Workshops inspected	9
Cheese dairies inspected	3
Farms and dairies inspected (new registration)	20

Notices Served.

Statutory	1
Informal	7
Bakehouse defects remedied	6
Slaughterhouse defects remedied	4

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (contd).

Shops.

No action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934.

Camping Sites.

No licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269, have been issued by the Council. During harvest operations, van dwellers make temporary use of fields as camping sites in some Parishes. No action has been taken to control these sites.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no publicly owned baths or pools in the area. A Swimming Club at Littleport has control of a small pool for use of children. The water is from the River Ouse. No action has been taken regarding the condition of the water.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases of infestation have been found or complained of to the Sanitary Officers.

Schools.

Sanitary Accommodation.- At Littleport Town Schools and at the Schools at Haddenham, Wilburton, and Stretham Infants, water closets are connected to the sewers. Coveney School has water closets, a septic tank being provided for all drainage. The pail system is, with two exceptions, the method throughout the remaining Schools in the area.

HOUSING

As indicated in the Annual Report for last year, the year under review has seen some 180 persons living in insanitary dwellings or in overcrowded conditions rehoused in new dwellings provided by the Council. This rate of progress is quite satisfactory having regard to the resources of the building industry in the area.

The building commitments of the Council at the end of the year, however, indicate that the year 1939 will prove a record year for rehousing as during this year it is confidently expected that some 500 persons will be rehoused in healthy conditions and surroundings. It may be of interest to record that at the end of 1938 some 600 persons had already removed from unhealthy conditions to dwellings provided by the Council.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	64
	(b)	Number of Visits made for the purpose	80
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	0
	(b)	Number of Visits made for the purpose	0
(iii)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	24
(iv)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	30

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	1

3. Action under Statutory Power during the year :

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	18
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By local authority in default of owners	1

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year (contd) :

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	12
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	33

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding :

(i) (a) Number of dwellings over-crowded at the end of the year	4
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	4
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	38
(ii) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2

HOUSING STATISTICS (contd).

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding (contd) :

(iii)	(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year by Council or by private re-housing or removals	7
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	56

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.- Farms, cowsheds and dairy premises (registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926) have been periodically inspected throughout the year. The larger farms are generally satisfactory; equipment and buildings having been modernized in recent years. The position is not so satisfactory among the tenants and owners of small farms, many buildings being ill-adapted for use as cowsheds. It is also noted that many small producers have now given up the making of butter and sell milk wholesale. Seven licences are held by producers in the area under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. There are three dairies in the area used for soft cheese making. These dairies were periodically inspected during the season and their sanitary condition was found satisfactory.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.- Slaughterhouses, shops and premises used for the preparation of foods are periodically inspected. No regular inspection of meat is undertaken. No information is available to shew the number of animals slaughtered during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

37 cases of Infectious Disease (excluding Tuberculosis) were notified during the year. Compared with the year 1937 this shews a large reduction when the number was 77.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES (contd).

The cases were :

Scarlet Fever	19
Diphtheria	3
Erysipelas	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2
Pneumonia	9

Scarlet Fever.

There were 19 cases as compared with 39 in 1937; 16 of the cases were treated in Hospital. The fever was of a mild type and there were no deaths. They occurred mostly at the beginning and the end of the year; 9 cases during the first quarter and 6 cases during the last quarter of the year. The other 4 cases occurred during the summer months. The distribution was as follows :

Downham	2
Haddenham	3
Littleport	6
Pymore	1
Sutton	3
Witchford	2
Wilburton	2

Diphtheria.

3 cases of Diphtheria were notified as compared with 21 in 1937. All cases were treated in Hospital and there was one death. The distribution was as follows :

Chettisham	1
Downham	1
Littleport	1

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES (contd).

Diphtheria (contd).

No measures have been taken to provide artificial immunization against Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of Blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the end of the year was 64. This compares favourably with the number at the end of the year 1937, which was 79. Of the 64 cases, 34 were Pulmonary and 30 Non-Pulmonary. 7 new cases were notified during the year; 1 Pulmonary and 6 Non-Pulmonary. There were 6 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

Overleaf are the number of cases of Infectious Disease under various age groups.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths during the year are also charted under the various age groups.

J. W. C. FAIRWEATHER,
M.B., Ch.B.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diseases	At all ages	Number of Cases Notified												Removed to Isolation Hospital
		Ages - Years												
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever	19	-	1	-	2	1	7	2	3	3	-	-	-	16
Diphtheria	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	3
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Varicella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	9	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	37	5	3	-	3	1	8	2	5	5	2	3	-	19

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
45	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1	4	2	3	3	-	-